REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 4. Claims 1-21 are currently pending, with claims 7-21 withdrawn from further consideration.

In the Office Action mailed December 6, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,651 to Dancs et al. (hereinafter "Dancs") in view of Japanese Patent Abstract No. JP2001265912A to STARWEB (hereinafter "STARWEB") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,176 to Stewart et al. (hereinafter "Stewart").

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dancs in view of STARWEB and Stewart. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim elements. Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a reference or to combine reference teachings. Third, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.

Dancs fails to teach or suggest at least "performing a service for registering Internet connection information, which includes a user ID, user password, mail account, mail password, and access point, for Internet connection on a portable recording medium by a write terminal which is installed in a store and is capable of connecting the portable recording medium while the portable recording medium is being connected to the write terminal," as required by amended claim 1.

Dancs discloses a managed access environment 100. "An NC client 101 accepts a smart card 102. The NC client 101 communicates through the telephone

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system 103 using a standard telephone line 104, ... An internet access provider (IAP) 105 is also connected to the telephone system 103, and can be reached by dialing its telephone number." Dancs, column 4, lines 9-21. In Dancs, "[a]n NC User is an individual in possession of an NC smart card 102," which includes an ENTERPRISE_ID. "An ENTERPRISE_ID is a unique identifier for either an ISP 109 or corporate client." Dancs, column 4, lines 48-51. However, Dancs' teaching of managed access via telephone network using an ENTERPRISE_ID does not constitute "performing a service for registering Internet connection information, which includes a user ID, user password, mail account, mail password, and access point, for Internet connection on a portable recording medium by a write terminal which is installed in a store and is capable of connecting the portable recording medium while the portable recording medium is being connected to the write terminal," as recited by claim 1 (emphasis added).

STARWEB fails to cure Dancs' deficiencies. STARWEB merely mentions that "a remuneration is paid according to remuneration distribution rule for every new user introduced by the preregistered person." STARWEB at 1. However, STARWEB does not teach or suggest at least "performing a service for registering Internet connection information, which includes a user ID, user password, mail account, mail password, and access point, for Internet connection on a portable recording medium by a write terminal which is installed in a store and is capable of connecting the portable recording medium while the portable recording medium is being connected to the write terminal," as recited by claim 1 (emphasis added).

Stewart fails to cure Dancs' and STARWEB's deficiencies. Stewart discloses a "system and method for providing access and/or roaming features on a network

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system." Stewart, abstract. "If the wireless network system provides a mechanism for the user to register or subscribe to a network provider, then the user may do so and receive Internet access through that selected provider. As another alternative, the network system may provide a mechanism for the user to register or subscribe to an external network provider, e.g., and external ISP, perhaps with a small referral fee paid to the maintainer of the network system." Stewart, column 15, lines 40-47. However, Stewart's teaching of alternative access to the network system does not constitute "performing a service for registering Internet connection information, which includes a user ID, user password, mail account, mail password, and access point, for Internet connection on a portable recording medium by a write terminal which is installed in a store and is capable of connecting the portable recording medium while the portable recording medium is being connected to the write terminal," as recited by claim 1 (emphasis added).

Thus, none of Dancs, STARWEB, and Stewart, taken alone or in any reasonable combination, teaches or suggests all elements of Applicant's invention as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. Because claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, Applicant also requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 for at least the same reasons stated above.

Independent claim 4, while of different scope, recites similar language to that of claim 1. Claim 4 is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with

regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 and its dependent claims 5 and 6.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 24, 2005   By:_____
                                     Wenye Tan
                                     Reg. No. 55,662